

REMARKS

Consideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully requested.

Claims 5-8 are pending in the application. Claim 6 has been amended to be in independent form by incorporating the subject matter of base claim 5. Claim 8 has been amended to replace "its" with the term it refers to, namely "the free end edge or knife edge." No claims have been amended to overcome prior art. The breadth of the claims has not been narrowed. Thus, the full doctrine of equivalents applies to each claim. No new matter has been added.

The indication of allowable subject matter in claims 6-8 is acknowledged with appreciation.

The objection to the Abstract is obviated by the amendment to the Abstract set forth above. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection to the Abstract is respectfully requested.

The rejection of claim 8 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, is obviated by the amendment to claim 8 set forth above. Accordingly, withdrawal of the Section 112 rejection is respectfully requested.

The rejection of claim 5 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,549,567 (Horton) is respectfully traversed. The claimed invention is not anticipated by Horton for the following reasons.

The Examiner states that Horton teaches "[t]he radial partition walls can be adjusted in the circumferential direction, col. 3, lines 44-46." However, column 3, lines 44-36 of Horton states that "[w]hile, as noted, there are 8 compartmented regions, this number may be from 4 to 20." Thus, this statement in Horton only relates to the number of compartments, which number may be chosen between 4 and 20. This statement teaches nothing about the claimed "the radial partition walls can adjusted in the circumferential direction." Compare Fig. 2 of the present application to Fig. 1 of Horton. The radial partition walls in Horton can not be adjusted in the circumferential direction.

In the claimed invention, the ability to adjust the radial partition walls in the circumferential direction results in a freely variable ratio of the outlet substreams. Furthermore, the ratio of substreams can be varied during operation of the claimed

device. In contrast, in Horton the ratio of the substreams cannot be varied during operation. Horton is designed for dividing substreams according to a predetermined distribution ratio and which requires a temporary shut down of operation to adjust the distribution ratio.

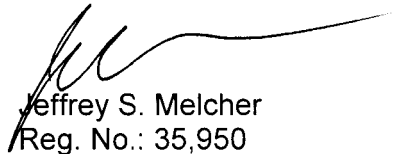
Anticipation requires that the cited reference disclose every claim limitation. Since Horton does not disclose all of the limitations recited in claim 5, Horton cannot anticipate claim 5. Accordingly, withdrawal of the Section 102 rejection is respectfully requested.

Early and favorable action on the merits are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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